Though overall availability position of seeds is satisfactory, there are minor shortages due to varietal choice. Overall availability of pesticides has been reported to be satisfactory.

(b) These items are being made available to the farmers at reasonable prices.

(c) All out efforts have been made to ensure adequate supply of the inputs.

Rain-fed areas under cultivation

*332. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total areas under cultivation which is dependent on rainfall in the country;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to develop irrigation facilities in various States;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the achievements made in bringing more areas under irrigation in these States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Out of the total cultivable area of 185 million hectares, the area covered by irrigation facilities to the end of 1990-91 is about 82.76 million hectares. Cultivation in the remaining area is dependent on rainfall only.

(b) 263 major irrigation projects and 1104 medium irrigation projects have been taken up to develop irrigation facilities in the country, in addition to promotion of well irrigation and minor irrigation works. 83 major projects and 777 medium projects have been completed so far.

(c) and (d) Creation of an additional irrigation potential of 2.854 million hectares was targetted for 1990-91 against which the anticipated achievement has been 3.017 million hectares.

Ban on recruitment of postmen

*333. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a ban on recruitment of postmen since 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) In January, 1984 a ban was imposed on creation of new posts, except in the most exceptional circumstances. It was also ordered that vacancies where recruitment action had not been taken should not be filled. However, the said orders were since relaxed in August, 1986 and recuritment to fill up vacancies caused due to retirement, death, promotion etc., has been permitted.

(b) The restrictions in creation of posts were imposed by the Government of India not only in postman cadre but in all other cadres also. It was done with a view to effect strict economy in Government expenditure.

*334. [*Transferred to the 17th December* 1991]

Singing of National Anthem in Delhi Schools

£*335. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has recently issued an order making it compulsory to sing the National Anthem every day after morning assembly in the Schools;

(b) if so, whether all the schools are following the above order; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

£Previously starred questions 295. Transferred from the 11th December, 1991.